

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-21. (cancelled without disclaimer or prejudice)

22. (new) A modular sterilization assembly for sterilizing an item, the assembly comprising:

a first module for defining a sterile enclosure, the first module comprising:

an inlet port;

an outlet port;

a first barrier for covering the inlet port, wherein the first barrier comprises a vapor permeable, microorganism impermeable material; and

a second barrier for covering the outlet port, wherein the second barrier comprises a vapor permeable, microorganism impermeable material; and

a second module configured to be attached to and detached from the first module, the second module comprising:

a sterilant; and

an opening, wherein the opening is configured to be placed in fluid communication with the inlet port.

23. (new) The modular sterilization assembly of Claim 22, wherein the second module further comprises a fan, and wherein the fan is configured to induce a pressure differential between the first module and the second module.

24. (new) The modular sterilization assembly of Claim 22, further comprising a third module configured to be attached to and detached from the first module.

25. (new) The modular sterilization assembly of Claim 22, wherein the first module further comprises a baffle, and wherein the baffle is configured to lengthen a flow path of the sterilant between the inlet port and the outlet port.

26. (new) The modular sterilization assembly of Claim 22, wherein the second module further comprises an indicator, and wherein the indicator is configured to indicate a level of sterilization achieved in the first module.

27. (new) The modular sterilization assembly of Claim 22, wherein the opening of the second module is a first opening, wherein the second module further comprises a second opening, and wherein the second opening is configured to be placed in fluid communication with the outlet port.

28. (new) The modular sterilization assembly of Claim 27, further comprising a third barrier for covering at least one of the first opening and the second opening, wherein the third barrier comprises a vapor permeable, microorganism impermeable material.

29. (new) A modular sterilization assembly for sterilizing an item, the assembly comprising:

a first module for defining a sterile enclosure, the first module comprising:

an inlet port;

an outlet port;

a first barrier for covering the inlet port, wherein the first barrier comprises a vapor permeable, microorganism impermeable material; and

a second barrier for covering the outlet port, wherein the second barrier comprises a vapor permeable, microorganism impermeable material; and

a second module configured to be engaged with the inlet port and the outlet port, the second module comprising a sterilant, wherein the second module is configured to circulate the sterilant into the first module and back into the second module.

30. (new) The modular sterilization assembly of Claim 29, wherein the second module further comprises a fan, and wherein the fan is configured to circulate the sterilant when the second module is engaged with the first module.

31. (new) The modular sterilization assembly of Claim 29, further comprising a third module configured to be attached to and detached from the first module.

32. (new) The modular sterilization assembly of Claim 29, wherein the first module further comprises a baffle, and wherein the baffle is configured to lengthen a flow path of the sterilant between the inlet port and the outlet port.

33. (new) The modular sterilization assembly of Claim 29, wherein the second module further comprises an indicator, and wherein the indicator is configured to indicate a level of sterilization achieved in the first module.

34. (new) The modular sterilization assembly of Claim 29, wherein the first module further comprises rounded corners, and wherein the rounded corners are configured to provide for more efficient flow of the sterilant within the first module.

35. (new) A modular sterilization assembly, comprising:

a first module configured to receive an item to be sterilized; and

a second module including a sterilant, wherein the first module is configured to be placed in fluid communication with the second module, and wherein the second module is configured to be attached to and detached from the first module by at least one of a snap, a clip, and a hook and loop closure material.

36. (new) The modular sterilization assembly of Claim 35, wherein the first module further comprises a first inlet port and a first outlet port, and wherein the second module further comprises a second inlet port, a second outlet port, and a fan configured to circulate the sterilant between the first module and the second module.

37. (new) The assembly of Claim 36, further comprising an enclosure within the first module, wherein a portion of the enclosure is configured to be engaged with a portion of a lumen device such that the sterilant is configured to flow into the enclosure, through an aperture in the lumen device, and into the first module.

38. (new) The modular sterilization assembly of Claim 35, wherein the first module further comprises a baffle, and wherein the baffle is configured to lengthen a flow path of the sterilant between the first inlet port and the first outlet port.

39. (new) A method of sterilizing an item, comprising:

- receiving the item in a first module;
- sealing the first module with a vapor permeable, microorganism impermeable material;
- removably attaching a second module to the first module, wherein the second module includes a sterilant;
- flowing the sterilant into the first module;
- flowing the sterilant back into the second module; and
- detaching the first module from the second module while maintaining the item in a sterile condition within the first module.

40. (new) The method of Claim 39, wherein the sealing further comprises sealing an inlet port and an outlet port of the first module.

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41. (new) The method of Claim 39, further comprising flowing the sterilant into a third module.